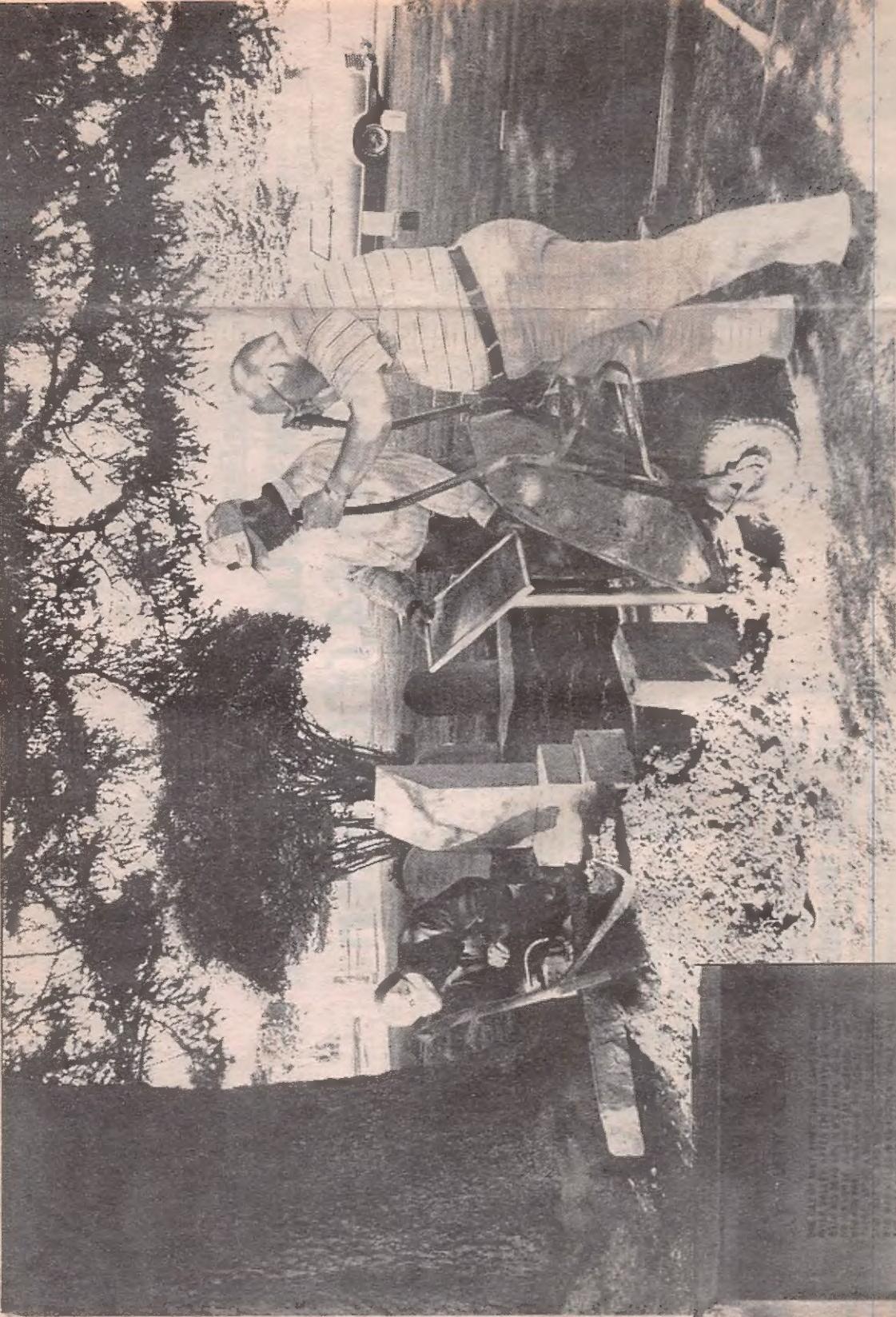


Sons of Utah Pioneers Mark Grave of Indian Chief's Son

Dr. Raymond Green (right) and Melvin Carlile, Sons of Utah Pioneers, set a brass memorial marker in cement, marking the grave of Tommy, the son of Black Hawk Chief Tabby. Theo Daybell had to saw the roots of the more than 120-year-old pine tree so one of the stones marking the grave, which was dislodged by the roots, could be set in proper place.



The local Sons of the Utah Pioneers erected a brass memorial marker at the site of a grave in the Heber City cemetery in which the son of an Indian chief was buried about 120 years ago. The marker was set in place the Friday before Memorial Day.

The son of Chief Tabby, who in 1867 signed the peace treaty ending the Black Hawk Wars, is buried under the tallest pine tree, the northeastern tree of the group of pines in the center of the cemetery. The grave is marked at each end with a stone and it is horizontal to all the other graves.

The marker briefly tells the story of the burial. Dr. Raymond Green, a member of the SUP and historian, tells every fascinating detail that led up to the unusual burial. The following is a condensed version of Dr. Green's account:

The first Mormon settlers, who arrived in the Provo River Valley (Heber Valley) in 1859, and immediately built a fort to protect themselves from harrassment by the Black Hawk Indians. Although the Indians set fires and stole from the settlers who had come into their territory, the settlers followed the direction of their church President, Brigham Young, to "feed, not fight." There wasn't a lot of bloodshed in the valley during those years of the Black Hawk War, but

the unrest kept the settlers behind the fort walls.

the fort walls.
Joseph Stacy Murdock (June 26, 1822 - February 14, 1899), appointed by LDS Church President Brigham Young as the spiritual leader of the Mormon settlers in the Provo River Valley (Heber Valley), rescued two Indian children at the mouth of Provo Canyon, a boy and a girl, from an Indian who was headed to Mexico to sell them into slavery. He brought them to his home (across the street from the North School in Heber) to his first wife, who had not been able to bear children during their seven years of marriage. They reared them as their own and, in fact, educated them better than any of the thirty-two children Mr. Murdock eventually fathered.

When the Indian girl, Permetta, was eighteen a young man of disrepute courted her. Bishop Murdock was so dismayed that he went to President Young for counseling, then followed his advice to make the girl his fifth wife. President Young very likely thought the union would also be a good public relations move toward establishing peace with the Black Hawks.

That was in 1859, and it apparently had some effect, because Black Hawk Chief Tabby signed a peace treaty with Bishop Murdock, in the Murdock home in 1867.

Bishop Murdock sealed the agreement with a gift to Chief Tabby of 50 to 100 head of cattle. Not only was the treaty kept, the two became friends, and the settlers came out from behind the fort walls.

One day, not long afterward, Bishop Murdock looked up toward Daniel Canyon and saw a small band of Indians coming toward the settlement. As they neared, he recognized Chief Tabby and saw that he was leading a pony carrying the body of a boy.

Chief Tabby went to Bishop Murdock's home and told him the boy was his son, Tommy, killed in a hunting accident. He requested a Mormon funeral and Bishop Mur-

dock conducted graveside services. The grave was next to a pine tree planted by one of Bishop Murdock's sons a few years earlier.

Then Chief Tabby said he would also like an Indian burial. According to Indian tradition, the pony would have been slain and buried with the boy. But the grave wasn't big enough, so they built a pyre out of cedar wood, slit the pony's throat, and burned its body on the pyre.

Although Christian dead are buried in an east-west direction, Tommy was laid in a north-south grave, according to Indian tradition.

Utah Pioneers will sponsor a program in the Wasatch High School auditorium following a community dinner in the gymnasium. February will be Come Home month, under the direction of the Art Council. The city's birthday party will be held in the new City Hall, March 4, with tours of the building and a big birthday cake.

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